

# **Bird Education and Research Quarterly Report**

**January, February, March 2016**

**Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks, and Metro Parks and Recreation**



**Young Naturalists from West Meade Elementary visit the banding station to learn about birds**



**Programs like this Waterthrush Walk encourage all ages to get out and explore the Park**



**This Yellow-rumped Warbler, a winter resident only, was banded here 25 Feb 2014, then recaptured on 24 Feb 2015 and then again on 23 Feb 2016!!!**



**White-throated Sparrows often return to the same wintering sites each year before heading North to nest.**



**John Kell, banding trainee, bands his first bird as Master Bander Kathy Shaw guides his work and records data**



**Diana McLusky, Coordinator of the Bluebird Nest Box Program, gets the 50 boxes and her monitoring team ready for spring and the active 2016 nesting season**

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## **Bird Education and Research Coordinator**

- Coordinator worked 184 hours and volunteered 74 hours
- Volunteers contributed **333 hours and 131 visits**
- Bird Research Projects and Programs connected with over **390 visitors**
- All MAPS data entered and reviewed by Kathy Shaw and sent to Institute of Bird Populations
- Held banding training sessions for permitted banders, banders in training, and volunteers; eBird training
- Scheduled spring banding dates, spring programs and MAPS summer banding dates
- Completed 2015 annual Bird Education and Research and other reports; work plan for 2016
- Submitted all 2015 banding records to the Bird Banding Laboratory and ordered bands for 2016
- Worked with Cammie Claybrook on a new Bird Page on the nature center website
- Worked with new FOWP Nature Center sub-committee for the bird program; Chris Sloan, Chair

## **Bird Projects and Programs**

- 9 Winter Banding Sessions scheduled, captured 277 birds, 301 visitors and field trip students observed
- Several notable banding recaptures of Carolina Chickadees and White-throated Sparrows and most significant – a Yellow-rumped Warbler, an uncommon winter resident here, was banded on 25 February 2014, recaptured 24 February 2015, and then again on the last winter banding session, 23 February 2016!
- 4 Bird Programs presented, including the Great Backyard Bird Count Citizen Science Program, with 89 participants
- Bird feedings stations on the center grounds and the bird blind maintained and filled by volunteers Elly Foster and her dog Brody Monday – Friday and on Saturdays by Dr. Ed Gleaves and friends
- Purple Martin Nest Boxes cleaned out at the golf courses and nature center and ready for residents to arrive from South America; the first Purple Martin of the year arrived on 26 March
- eBird Project - bird sightings and banding data entered into Warner eBird accounts. Volunteers John Kell, Allison Salas, Cheryl Brummal, Cindy Bond and Sandy Bivens entering current & historical banding data
- Thanks to the dedicated bird research volunteers and staff that make these projects and programs possible! Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, Ethel Kawamura, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Susan Bradfield, Cyndi Routledge, John Kell, Laura & Della Hoffman, Allison Salas, Heather Gallagher, Denise Weyer, Melissa Donahue and Vera Vollbrecht

## **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project – coordinated by Diana McLusky**

- Checked, cleaned, repaired and replaced old boxes in the 50 box Amelia Laskey Bluebird Nesting Box Program ongoing in the Warner Parks since 1936 – this will be the 81<sup>st</sup> year for this long-term project.
- Completed monitoring notebooks and training for the 5 volunteers that weekly monitor 10 boxes each
- Nests were found in March and the first eggs were found 23 March 2016
- Paul Pleiman, graduate student, University of Arkansas, continued his research of Warner Park bluebird data
- Bluebird Volunteers: Diana McLusky, John Kell, Sue Shallow, Kim Bailey, and Sandy Bivens

## **Project FeederWatch 2015-2016 - coordinated by Melissa Donahue**

- A Citizen Science Partnership Project with Cornell Lab of Ornithology ongoing here since 1979
- This 19th season, November – April, of FeederWatch had 11 dedicated volunteers who completed 18 counts with 22 species total. A count consists of watching the feeders two days in a row.
- FeederWatch Volunteers: Rebecca Dandekar, Margie Hunter, Beth Preston, John Preston, Lauren Hoffman, Della Hoffman, Warner Park Nature Center Nature Club, Jean Louise Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Katie Doyle, & Kerry Carden.

**Submitted by Sandy Bivens, 12 April 2016**